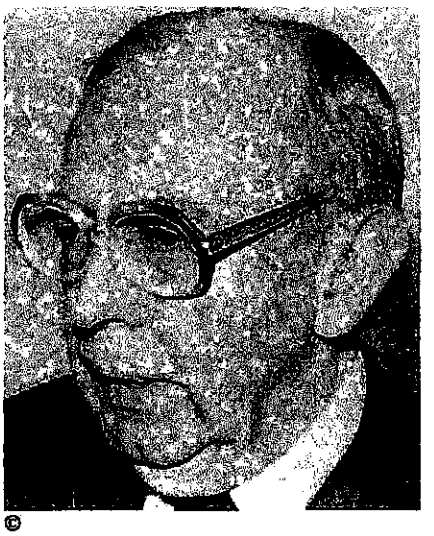
Approved for Release: 2025/06/09 C06935078

(b)(3)

Krzysztof SKUBISZEWSKI **POLAND**
(Phonetic: skoobeeZHEHVskee)

Minister of Foreign Affairs
(since September 1989)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister



A highly respected professor of international law, Krzysztof Skubiszewski is a Catholic moderate who is closely allied with Jozef Cardinal Glemp and other Polish Catholic bishops, (b)(1) (b)(3) So far, he has declared that national independence and sovereignty must be the guiding principles of foreign relations, and he has called for the permanence of Poland's western borders. Skubiszewski has assured Poland's Warsaw Pact partners that reforms pose no threat to their alliance. He told his parliamentary confirmation committee that he would take up the issue of war reparations with the Soviet Union. (b)(3)

Skubiszewski's nomination was unexpected, but now Polish observers of all political affiliations agree that he was the best possible choice for the post. (b)(1) (b)(3) President Wojciech Jaruzelski was the inspiration behind the appointment. (b)(1) (b)(3) three years ago Skubiszewski agreed to join an advisory committee to the chairman of the Council of State when doing so put his credentials as an independent thinker in jeopardy—Jaruzelski was grateful for this support. (b)(3)

As a young professor, Skubiszewski sought to avoid controversy in his classroom. He has also been careful in his contacts with Westerners. However, he has become bolder as he has aged and Poland's Communists have weakened. In 1986 he joined a group of lawyers who petitioned the president of Poland's constitutional tribunal to declare a restrictive trade union law unconstitutional. He was a member of a bipartisan consultative council appointed by Jaruzelski in 1987 to advise the President on how to solve the country's serious economic and social problems. He currently has no party affiliation. (b)(3)

(b)(1) (b)(3) He attended Harvard in the late 1950s on a grant from the Ford Foundation and was awarded an LL.M. degree. In 1964 he was reportedly doing research on the UN General Assembly at Columbia. (b)(1) (b)(3)

Skubiszewski was born on 10 August 1926 in Poznan into a wealthy and well-educated family. He is a graduate of Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan) and has been a full professor there. He lectured at the University of Geneva in 1961 and at the University of London in 1963. During 1981-84 he was a member of Cardinal Jozef Glemp's Social Council, delegated by the Episcopate's Secretariat to work on the Polish – West Germ(b)(1) forum. He has written on international organizations, Polish-German border issues, ar(b)(3) military law. Skubiszewski (b)(3) speaks fluent Oxford English.

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LDA M 89-15774
19 October 1989

Approved for Release: 2025/06/09 C06935078